

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (previously presented) Apparatus for intermixing objects and a liquid comprising at least one receptacle having sides and a bottom for receiving and retaining said objects, wherein said objects are at least one object selected from the group of affinity beads and one or more living organisms, wherein said receptacle is permeable on the bottom and on a portion of at least one side to permit said liquid to flow through said receptacle to intermix with said objects when said receptacle is inserted into a vessel containing said liquid, with the proviso that a portion of at least one side is not permeable.
2. (canceled)
3. (previously presented) Apparatus for intermixing objects and a liquid as set forth in claim 1 further including means for immersing said receptacle in said vessel a plurality of times.
4. (previously presented) Apparatus for intermixing objects and a liquid as set forth in claim 1 wherein said receptacle is constructed of a material that is chemically inert with respect to said liquid and said objects.
5. (previously presented) Apparatus for intermixing objects and a liquid as set forth in claim 1 wherein said portion of said receptacle that is permeable is located at or near the bottom of said receptacle.
6. (previously presented) Apparatus for intermixing objects and a liquid as set forth in claim 1 wherein said portion of said receptacle that is permeable is formed from a mesh having openings that are smaller than substantially all of said objects to permit the flow of said liquid therethrough while retaining said objects within said receptacle.

7. (previously presented) Apparatus for intermixing objects and a liquid as set forth in claim 1 wherein said portion of said receptacle that is permeable comprises a substantial portion of the bottom or lower the lower sidewalls of said receptacle.

8. (previously presented) Apparatus for intermixing objects and a liquid as set forth in claim 1 wherein said objects comprise one or more living organisms.

9. (previously presented) Apparatus for intermixing objects and a liquid as set forth in claim 8 wherein said liquid contains a stain or a pharmaceutical, or said living organisms are subjected to biochemical conditions, whose effect on said living organism is being studied.

10. (previously presented) Apparatus for intermixing objects and a liquid as set forth in claim 1 wherein the interior of said vessel containing said liquid is larger than but similar in size to the exterior of said receptacle so that, when said receptacle is inserted into said vessel, the level of said liquid in said vessel is displaced to a substantially higher level to increase the liquid pressure at the bottom of said receptacle to force said liquid upwardly into said permeable portion of said receptacle.

11. (previously presented) Apparatus for intermixing objects and a liquid as set forth in claim 1 wherein said objects carry proteins and wherein said liquid contains an antibody which attaches to said proteins to cause immunoprecipitation.

12. (previously presented) Apparatus for intermixing objects with a liquid comprising a plurality of receptacles, each receptacle having sides and a bottom for containing said objects, wherein said objects are at least one object selected from the group of affinity beads and one or more living organisms, each of said receptacles is permeable on the bottom and on a portion of at least one side to permit the flow of said liquid therethrough, with the proviso that a portion of at least one side is not permeable, wherein a vessel containing said solution, and means for repeatedly inserting said receptacles into said liquid in said vessel and then withdrawing said receptacle from said liquid to cause said liquid to first flow into said receptacle through said

permeable portion when said receptacle is inserted into said liquid and then to flow outwardly from said receptacle through said permeable portion when said receptacle is withdrawn from said liquid.

13. (previously presented) Apparatus for intermixing objects with a liquid as set forth in claim 12 wherein said liquid is a lysate containing proteins and said objects are affinity beads to which said proteins become bound when said liquid and said affinity beads are intermixed.

14. (previously presented) Apparatus for intermixing objects with a liquid as set forth in claim 13 wherein said portion of each of said receptacles that is permeable defines openings which are large enough to permit the flow of said lysate therethrough but smaller than substantially all of said affinity beads.

15. (previously presented) Apparatus for intermixing objects with a liquid as set forth in claim 12 wherein said portion of each of said receptacles that is permeable defines openings which are large enough to permit the flow of said liquid therethrough but smaller than substantially all of said solid objects.

16. (previously presented) Apparatus for intermixing objects with a liquid as set forth in claim 15 wherein said portion of said receptacle that is permeable is a mesh located at the bottom of said receptacle.

17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) Apparatus for intermixing objects with a liquid as set forth in claim 12 wherein said objects are living organisms and said liquid contains a stain or pharmaceutical whose effect on said living organisms is being studied.

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Amendment and Response

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19. (previously presented) Apparatus for intermixing objects and a liquid according to claim 1, wherein the objects are affinity beads and the liquid is a lysate containing proteins to be purified.
  
20. (previously presented) Apparatus for intermixing objects and a liquid according to claim 1, wherein the living organisms are at least one organism selected from the group of embryos, larvae, and the like.